

PORTRAITS OF THE VICTIMS, PAGES A2-3



CONNECTICUT POST

WWW.CTPOST.COM | Sunday, December 16, 2012 | SINCE 1883 | \$2.50

Newtown asks why

Seeking answers:
Victims' names released; details still spotty

By Michael P. Mayko

NEWTOWN — Colorful holiday decorations disappeared here Saturday, replaced by somber black bunting, flags at half-staff and dozens of candles set in a hastily created shrine honoring the 26 Sandy Hook School victims mercilessly gunned down by an armed madman the day before.

By late Saturday afternoon, State Police had released the names of the 12 young girls and eight young boys slaughtered by Adam Lanza, 20, with a powerful, military-style assault rifle, adding another layer of pain on a community already reeling from Friday's blood-bath.

The list of the dead also included six women — teachers, counselors and administrators — at the kindergarten through fourth-grade school in this close-knit suburb that was once a fertile farming community.

One of the children killed was Emilie Parker, 6, whose father, Robbie, said she "brightened up" every room she entered and delighted in teaching her two younger sisters to dance and read.

"I'm blessed to be her dad," he said, choking back tears.

Parker, who moved to Newtown just eight months ago to take a physician assistant job in Danbury Hospital's newborn intensive care unit, amazingly said he bore no ill will towards the Lanza family.

"Our family's love and support go out to you as well," he said. "I can't imagine how hard this experience has been on you."

Late Saturday, Peter

See Victims' on A4



Michael Duffy/Staff photographer

Mourners react Saturday after placing flowers on a memorial built around the sign for the Sandy Hook School in Newtown. The school was the site of a mass shooting on Friday.

The shooter: Lanza a quiet, anti-social student

By Paul Grondahl, Tim Loh and Ken Dixon

NEWTOWN — A divorce, a shattered family dynamic and a disturbed, enigmatic young man with easy access to his mother's extensive gun collection may have sowed the seeds of Friday's massacre in Sandy Hook School.

Adam Lanza, 20, was remembered Saturday as a quiet, "anti-social" student at Newtown High School, which he left before graduation in 2010, to be home-schooled by his mother, Nancy Lanza, whose murder

der in the home they shared set off the rampage.

Nancy Lanza, 52, was recalled as an educated, striking woman and a loving mother who was proud of Adam and his older brother. Friends say she was optimistic about Adam's cloudy mental outlook and was even planning on following him to a college when he eventually got himself together and was accepted somewhere.

But her penchant for firearms and her family excursions — taking her two sons target shooting in recent

See Profile on A5



Courtesy family of Nancy Lanza

Nancy Lanza, mother of shooter Adam Lanza, was one of the people killed Friday.

Obama expected today

» Presidential stop: President Barack Obama is slated to visit Newtown on Sunday, speaking at a memorial service.

Inside

» Calls renewed: Friday's shootings are renewing calls by some for stricter gun control measures in the United States. **Page A6**

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POST

TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN



Christian Abraham/Staff photographer

Ted Kowalczyk, of Milford, and his friend Rachel Schiavone, of Norwalk, attend a candlelight vigil held behind Stratford High School on the Town Hall Green in Stratford on Saturday. Kowalczyk and Schiavone were close friends to Stratford High graduate Vicki Soto, who was killed in Friday's mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. Soto was a teacher at the school where 27 people died.

The victims, remembered

The 20 children were just 6 or 7 years old with so much of their lives ahead of them. It was a season of joy, with the holiday break not far away. One girl had celebrated her 7th birthday just three days before. Before a gunman came to Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed them Friday morning. Along with the students, six professional educators, all women, were killed, many of them while trying to protect the children.

VICTORIA LEIGH SOTO, 27

'A true hero'

Victoria Leigh Soto, a first-grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School, was among those killed in the shooting Friday.

Soto, 27, a 2003 graduate of Stratford High School, reportedly shielded her first-grade students from Adam Lanza's gunfire with her own body.

According to a Facebook post being circulated by teachers, Soto was a hero.

When she became aware there was a gunman in the school, she hid her first-graders in closets and cabinets, then told the shooter they were in the gym.

He turned the gun on Soto, killing her, but none of her students were harmed.

In an earlier posting on a Facebook page, Vicki Soto wrote about her life.

"In my free time I love to spend time with black lab, Roxie. I love spending time with my brother, sisters and cousins," she wrote. "I love to spend time reading books on the beach soaking up the sun. I also love flamigos and the New York Yankees."



Soto graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in elementary education and history and was attending Southern Connecticut State University for a master's degree in special education.

Early Friday, Soto went to the school library to find what she called the "perfect" book for her first-graders that day, Soto's colleague, Yvonne Cech, the library media specialist, said Saturday.

"She was amazing and a wonderful teacher," Cech said.

A post being circulated by teachers on Facebook began with the following, accompanied by a picture:

"This is Victoria Soto, and although I didn't know her, she is my hero. I don't know too much about her, but I know a lot of people who do know her and she's amazing ... God bless Victoria, her family and friends, and all of those who were involved today in anyway. Victoria is a true hero."

EMILIE PARKER, 6

'Bright, creative'

Robbie Parker said his daughter "would be one of the first ones offering sympathy and giving support to those affected by this — not because of anything my wife or I have done, but because of her wonderful, God-given gifts."

Emilie Parker, 6 years old, was one of the 20 Sandy Hook Elementary School students killed on Friday. Speaking Saturday at a family news conference, her 30-year-old father described Emilie as a talented, playful and caring child.

"I find comfort in the incredible person Emilie was ... bright, creative and very loving, always able to try new things — except foods," Robbie Parker said. "She was an exceptional artist, always carrying markers and pencils to create cards."

Anytime someone was suffering, her father said, Emilie would make them a card. She recently made a particularly meaningful one, he said, to ride in the casket of her grandfather, who was killed in an accident.



Emilie's younger sisters, 3 and 4 years old, "looked up to her for comfort," Parker said. "It was cute to see how, if one fell or had her feelings hurt, she would look to Emilie for comfort."

Parker, a physicians' assistant at Danbury Hospital, said that, as Emilie would have, he sympathized with the families of all of Friday's shooting victims.

"This is extended to the family of the shooter also," he said. "I can't imagine how difficult this must be for you."

His daughter, "beautiful, blond, always smiling, with bright blue eyes," had kind words for an about everyone, Parker said.

He said he was blessed to be Emilie's father, and by their final moments together.

"I was leaving for work and she woke up before I left," Parker said. "I was teaching her Portuguese and our last conversation was in Portuguese. She just told me 'good morning' and asked how I was doing. I said I was doing well."

Tenor saxophonist Jimmy Greene with his family, son, Isaiah, wife, Nelba, and daughter, Ana, 6. Ana was one of the 20 children killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, on Friday.



ottawa citizen.com

This summer, there was great excitement in the area arts community with the announcement that noted jazz saxophonist Jimmy Greene had joined the faculty of Western Connecticut State University.

By on Saturday there was only sorrow. Greene's 6-year-old daughter, Ana Marquez-Greene, was killed Friday when a gunman broke into Sandy Hook Elementary School and began shooting.

Greene and his wife, Nelba Marquez-Greene, have another child, their son Isaiah. Isaiah was also at Sandy Hook school. But he was in a different classroom, and escaped unharmed.

ANA MARQUEZ-GREENE, 6

'Sweetie girl'

Western President James Schmotter released a statement Saturday, saying "it was with immeasurable sadness that the university community received the news that our friend and colleague Jimmy Greene has suffered this terrible loss."

Green and his family moved to Newtown this year after Greene was appointed assistant professor of music and assistant coordinator of jazz studies at Western. He had been teaching at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

According to other reports, the family chose to live in Newtown because of the excellence of its school system.

Greene and his wife declined to speak to the media Saturday. But in a Facebook posting, Greene wrote "thank you all for your prayers and kind words of support."

"As we work through this nightmare, we're reminded of how much we're loved and supported on this earth and by our Father in heaven."

"As much as she's needed here and missed by her mother, brother and me, Ana beat us all to heaven, I miss you sweetie girl."

On his Facebook, there is also a track from Greene's album "Mission Statement."

The beautiful, plaintive melody is entitled "Ana Grace."

TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN

CHASE KOWALSKI, 7

A jokester

With 11 days left until Christmas, 7-year-old Chase Kowalski was without both of his two front teeth.

"I saw him two days ago, and I asked him if he wanted to see Santa, and he told me that he wanted his teeth back, and it was really sweet," Chase's 13-year-old next-door neighbor Keeley Baumann said Saturday evening.

Keeley, who had known Chase his whole life, and is nearer in age to his two older sisters — Erin, a ninth-grader, and Brittany, a sixth-grader — choked up at times as she described the blonde-hair, blue-eyed child she'd "never get to see grow up."

Chase was a first-grade student at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

He was full of life, a jokester with a great smile — even when it was toothless — who was constantly outside, playing on the yellow slide or swimming in the pool in his backyard. And he loved his four-wheeler, said Keeley.

He was smart and funny. Kind.



"I would have never thought in a million years I would have to go to a 7-year-old's funeral," Keeley said.

Chase lived with his sisters and his parents, Steve and Rebecca, in a buttercream-colored split-level home. On Saturday afternoon the home — dressed up for the holidays with Christmas lights and two evergreen trees on the porch — was guarded by a silver police cruiser with a State Police Trooper stationed to help protect the family's privacy.

JESSE LEWIS, 6

'Little ball of fire'

Jesse Lewis may have been only 6 years old, but he seemed much older.

A neighbor who lives next door to Jesse and his mom, Scarlet, said he was "older than his years" and was well-versed and smart.

He loved playing in his backyard where there is a barn and pasture for horses.

Jesse "was always playing in the back yard with the horses," said the neighbor, who asked to not be named.

Late Saturday afternoon, a woman named Lisa who keeps her horses on the property, described Jesse as a "bright, precocious little boy" who was always happy.

She declined to give her last name and



said that Jesse's mom was with family and not ready to talk.

George Arfaras, 81, a next-door neighbor, said he would often see Jesse running around out back.

"I'd be in the yard or in the house," Arfaras said, "and I would hear him laughing, playing."

At Sandy Hook Diner on Church Hill Road, Saturday was a time of "hugs and tears," said Jodi Mucherino, 51, a waitress,

who recalled Jesse as a "little ball of fire."

"He loved to order an eggs Benedict and a side of hollandaise so he could dip everything in it," Mucherino said. "He would come in with his family every Saturday."

"But not this week."

LAUREN ROUSSEAU, 30

'Busy bee'

Lauren Rousseau's life was shaping up in the best ways.

At 30, she had a boyfriend, Tony Lusardi III.

"I called her 'Busy Bee,' " Lusardi said Saturday, speaking of the pace of Lauren's life. "She called me 'Worker Bee.' "

Family learned early Saturday that Lauren was one of six adults killed by the shooter Friday morning.

Lauren, after years of working as a substitute teacher, — while holding two other jobs — landed a permanent substitute position at the school in October.

"It was the best year of her life," said Teresa Rousseau, Lauren's mother and a copy editor at The News-Times.

Lauren grew up in Danbury, graduated from the University of Connecticut and earned a master's degree in teaching from the University of Bridgeport. She lived in



her family home in Danbury, with Teresa and her partner, William Leukhardt.

"She was like a kid in many ways," her father, Gilles Rousseau, said. "That's why she liked working with kids so much. She died with her little kids."

On Friday, Lauren and Tony were looking forward to seeing the movie, "The Hobbit." She had made cupcakes, with pictures of the actors in the

movie on each one.

Then Friday, as the day wore on, it became clear to Lauren's family that something had gone terribly wrong. They could not reach her.

And on Saturday, there was a terrible emptiness in the house Lauren had grown up in.

"I'm used to having people die who are older," said her mother, "not the person whose room is up over the kitchen."



Courtesy of Mark Sherlach/Associated Press

Mark Sherlach and his wife, school psychologist Mary Sherlach, pose for a photo. Mary Sherlach was killed Friday, when a gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, killing 26 children and adults at the school.

MARY SHERLACH, 56

'Great warmth'

For nearly 20 years, Mary Sherlach, had come to aid of students who needed help at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Her last act may have been in doing that again.

Sherlach, 56, had been the school psychologist at Sandy Hook since 1994.

Former school superintendent John Reed, who knew her well, praised her Friday as a person of great warmth, caring and intelligence.

"If there ever was a person who, by qualifications and personality, was made to work with children, to be a school psychologist, it was Mary," Reed said.

That giving life ended Friday, when Sherlach was one of the six adults killed at the school shooting.

Sherlach and Principal Dawn Hochsprung were the first school officials to walk out into the school halls when they heard shooting.

The shooter, carrying three automatic

weapons, killed them in that hallway.

Sherlach's death came a year before she was planning to retire. Before working at Sandy Hook Elementary, Sherlach worked in Redding, North Haven and New Haven as a school psychologist.

She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from the State University of New York in Cortland, and her master's and sixth-year degrees from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven.

She and her husband Bill, who is a financial consultant, lived in Trumbull. They have two adult daughters.

On her school website, Sherlach spoke of her love of gardening, reading and going to the theater, as well as spending time in the family summer home in Owasco Lake, in the Finger Lakes district of New York.

But Reed said that at Sandy Hook Elementary School, her life was centered around helping children and their families.



Christian Abraham/Staff photographer

Hundreds attend a candlelight vigil in memory of victims from Friday's mass shooting, which was held behind Stratford High School on the Town Hall Green in Stratford on Saturday.

DAWN LAFFERTY HOCHSPRUNG, 47

'Optimistic'

Those who knew Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung said she was the right fit for Sandy Hook Elementary School, where she took the helm in 2010.

The optimistic, always-smiling, 47-year-old principal died Friday while lunging at the gunman in an attempt to overtake him in her school.

"She was everything you'd want in an educator," said Danbury Deputy Superintendent William Glass, who hired Hochsprung as an assistant principal for Danbury in 1998. "I was struck by her intellect and her ability to think through problems and come up with wonderful solutions."

Her husband, George Hochsprung, is a Danbury teacher. The family lived in Woodbury with their five children in a blended family, and sailed.

Hochsprung "loved children," said parent Donna Kowalski, who lives across from the Sandy Hook school, which her teenage daughter used to attend.

"She was an awesome woman," Kowalski said. "Very warm, and caring. She talked to you, not at you."

Hochsprung served throughout the area, first as a special education teacher, then as assistant principal and principal.

"She was one of a kind," said Charles Manos, Brookfield schools' director of special services and a former colleague of Hochsprung. "I don't know a person who didn't respect and admire her."

Hochsprung was creative and hands-on, and didn't sit in her office much. But when she did the door was open, and she was welcoming and positive, retired Danbury



teacher Melody Montgomery said.

Glass said it was not unusual for Hochsprung to be down on the floor working "shoulder-to-shoulder, on her knees with the kids."

Hochsprung had begun a doctoral program at the Sage Colleges in Troy, N.Y.

"She loved kids and kids loved her," said Barbara Durniak, her secretary for five years in Danbury. "It's overwhelming. She was lovely to look at and lovely to know. She knew her job and did her job well."



Christian Abraham/Staff photographer

A candle memorial was laid out on the sidewalk as hundreds attend a candlelight vigil in memory of victims from yesterday's mass shooting in Newtown, which was held behind Stratford High School on the Town Hall Green in Stratford on Saturday.

Eileen FitzGerald, Robert Miller, Nanci Hutson, Susan Tuz, Maggie Gordon, Amanda Cuda, David Hennessey, Elizabeth Kim, Paul Nelson and Alysia Santo contributed to this report.

TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN

Victims' names released; other details spotty

Continued from A1

Lanza, the mass murderer's father, responded with his own thoughts.

"Our hearts go out to the families and friends who lost loved ones and to all those who were injured," he said. "Our family is grieving along with all those who have been affected by this enormous tragedy. No words can truly express how heartbroken we are. We too are asking why."

It remained unclear why Lanza, a former honor student who had trouble making friends, went on the killing spree after fatally shooting his mother and before finally killing himself.

"This is an active case," said State Police Lt. J. Paul Vance. "We are still pursuing leads."

Vance said investigators found in evidence at the Lanza home at 36 Yoganada Drive in Newtown that will help them determine "how and more importantly, why this occurred."

But another law enforcement source told the Associated Press, no note or manifesto typically left behind by similar mass murderers had been found.

What investigators do know is that the guns found near Lanza's body, a semi-automatic Bushmaster rifle which killed all of the school victims, and Glock and Sig Sauer handguns, were bought legally by his mother, Nancy Lanza, who was an avid target shooter who often practiced with her son, according to a New York Times report.

Time to grieve

The grieving spread across the U.S. and the world.

At every NFL game Sunday, there will be a moment of silence for the victims.

In Atlanta, the New York Giants dark blue helmets will contain the letters SHES - for Sandy Hook Elementary School

And President Barack Obama will arrive in Newtown to meet with devastated parents of the victims, thank traumatized first responders and attend a 7 p.m. interfaith vigil.

Many of the town's 27,000 residents sought comfort Saturday in houses of worship or at impromptu memorial vigils.

"Yesterday morning changed our town forever," said David Baxter standing outside the Newtown United Methodist Church.

For many, there will be no festive holiday - just funerals.

"In my neighborhood people feel guilty about it being Christmas," said Jeannie Pasacreta, a psychiatrist. "They are taking down decorations."

Forty-two miles away in Farmington, Chief Medical Examiner H. Wayne Carver II and his staff of four doctors and 10 technicians spent the morning completing the grisly but required job of performing autopsies on the 20 children

"We did not bring the bodies and the families into contact," he said. "There's another time and place for that."

Instead, Carver's staff took photographs of the children's faces and showed those to parents.

"I felt it was best to do it that way," said the doctor, of 31 years. "That's easier on the families."

By 1:30 p.m., the tiny bodies were delivered to funeral homes.

"All of the wounds I know of were caused by the long weapon," said Carver, who performed seven autopsies find as few as three and as many as 11 gunshot wounds. He said the bullets pierced all areas of the bodies, causing devastating injuries. Only two were shot at close range.

When asked if the victims suffered, Carver replied "if so, not for very long."

On Saturday afternoon, the task shifted to the six adults killed at the school.

Carver said he personally would conduct the autopsies on Lanza and his mother sometime today.

Asked how many bullets were fired, Carver said, "I'm lucky if I can tell you how many I found."

The victims

When Lanza blasted his way into the school, spraying death down a hallway and in two first grade classrooms, he shattered families forever.

He killed Dawn Hochsprung, the school's principal and Mary Sherlach, its psychologist, as they rushed to confront and calm him.

His bullets ripped through the body of Vicki Soto, a first-grade teacher from Stratford who sacrificed herself to spare the terrified



Julio Cortez/Associated Press

A U.S. flag, second from left, flies at half-staff Saturday, honoring the victims that died a day earlier when a gunman opened fire at an Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

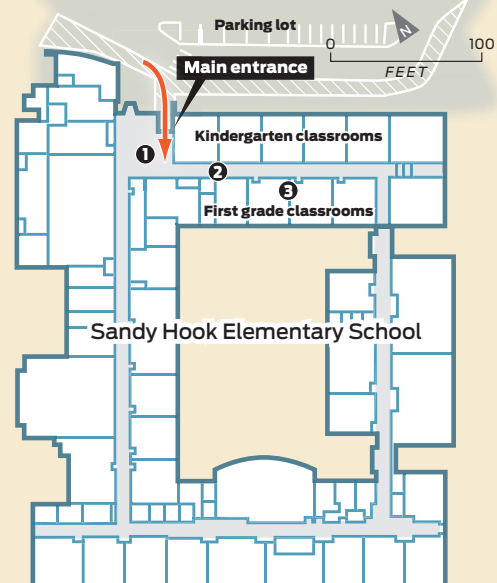
The Sandy Hook shooting

1 Around 9:30 a.m.: Adam Lanza forcibly enters the school through the main entrance and begins shooting. Principal Dawn Hochsprung and school psychologist Mary Sherlach hear the shots and confront Lanza, who shoots them to death.

2 Lanza continues shooting. Shortly after the 911 call is received, Newtown police arrive. At about **9:38 a.m.**, seeing bodies inside, they call for backup from neighboring towns and the State Police.

3 9:45 a.m.: Backup arrives. The shooting has stopped. Officers find Lanza dead in one of the first-grade classrooms.

Source: Connecticut State Police



students that she'd hidden in closets and cabinets seconds earlier.

He murdered Lauren Rousseau, a new first-grade teacher, who told anyone who asked, that this "was the best year of her life."

And his bullets ripped through children — some shot unsuspecting, others killed cowering in fear.

The children came from all walks of life.

There was little Emilie Parker, whose father said she carried a box of markers and colored pencils "and never missed the opportunity" to draw. "If she saw someone who felt sad and frustrated, she rushed to find a piece of paper" to draw them a picture to cheer them up.

There was Ana Grace Marquez-Greene, the niece of Jorge L. Marquez Perez, Maunabo, Puerto Rico's mayor and daughter of Jimmy Greene, a renowned saxo-

phonist. She was due to undergo an operation repairing a problem with her heart.

Vance said a trooper has been assigned to each victim's families to help protect their privacy.

Marsha Moskowitz, who has been driving students to the Sandy Hook school on her bus for the past 13 years, knew at least two of the child victims.

One of them, a girl, was on her last stop.

"I used to sneak her a lollipop," Moskowitz said.

Heroes

The list of child victims could have been much longer if not for many quick-thinking heroes at the 525-student school.

There was the unnamed administrator who turned on the intercom so teachers could hear the impending horror coming down

the hallway and properly react. There was the custodian who ran down the hallways, yelling a gunman was coming.

There was Maryann Jacob, a library clerk, shepherding the 18 fourth-graders gathered there into a storage room and locking the door while she pushed a file cabinet against it as a barricade.

Abbey Clements, a second-grade teacher, made sure her own students were out of harm's way and then grabbed more from the hallway, pushing them into her room before locking the door, according to Rabbi Shaul Praver of Congregation Adath Israel.

And there was Tricia Gogliettino delivering a gingerbread house to a first-grade class when she came upon five children running down the street screaming "Someone is trying kill us!"

She ushered them into her car, drove them to the police station and sat singing to them as their parents were called, according to her brother, Ridgefield State Rep. John Frey.

Answers are few

While the motive remained unknown, more details emerged about Lanza.

Joshua Milas, who befriended him at the High School Technology Club, described him as "one of the smartest kids I know," adding that Adam "was probably a genius."

But others saw a different side.

Lanza received help in science from Excel Tutoring in Newtown, where a person familiar with that work described him as "very hyper" and "not very likeable." Catherine Urso, whose son knew the killer, described Adam as

being "very thin, very remote and one of the goths."

Moskowitz, Sandy Hook's bus driver since 1999, said Lanza was one of her passengers.

"He was very quiet and shy and reserved," she said. "He didn't have friends. That kind of stuck out."

Richard Novia, the school district's security head until 2008, who also served as an advisor to the technology club when Lanza was a member, said he saw "a very scared young boy ... like an 8-year-old who refuses to give up his teddy bear."

He said he had "some disabilities ... If that boy would've burned himself, he would not have known it or felt it physically."

But Novia admitted he "could never have foreseen" Lanza shooting up a school.

Sandy Hook Elementary will be closed next week. Some believe it will never reopen.

While the town prepares for funerals, Janet Woycik, Newtown library's director and Alana Bennison, its children's librarian, are planning a week of activities to take children's minds off the sorrow all around.

Woycik has first-hand experience with the sorrow. She said one of her programming people lost a son and her neighbor lost a granddaughter in the killings.

"We need a place where children can come and not be bothered by reporters and people seeking information," Bennison said. "Just a neutral place...where they can feel normal in an abnormal situation."

Staff writers Anne M. Amato, Amanda Cuda, Maggie Gordon and Elizabeth Kim, and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN

Newtown bus driver recalls her children

By Tim Loh

NEWTOWN — Growing up, Marsha Moskowitz loved to watch the buses.

She liked how the drivers opened the door, welcoming people into their lives.

One day in 1999, after two decades working for Connecticut Light & Power, she got her chance to be one: Henceforth, she would drive bus No. 30, making daily trips to and from Sandy Hook Elementary School.

"I did the morning route and afternoon route," she said Saturday, pausing from her daily walk to recall her 13 years and thousands of faces on the job before retiring last June.

Every student got to know Barney, her 10-year-old beagle, whose pictures covered the walls of her bus.

Recently, since she lived in the neighborhood, they'd get to feed him.

**** Moskowitz loves Newtown. She loves its woodsy charm and her

dirt road, barely wide enough for two cars. She loves walking Barney and his puppy brother up the road to where the homes are big and the kids are plenty. She never makes it far on her mile loop before a car stops, a window drops, someone says "Hi."

Sometimes, it's a former student. Usually, it's a parent.

Friday, walking Barney and his puppy brother, more sirens screamed than she's heard in her life. She phoned a friend, who has a police scanner, and learned what one of the boys she'd driven a decade ago had done.

He was the sort you remember, she said. Because he was so aloof.

**** Kindergarten always started with nerves. The first day, you get them on the bus, let their parents take their pictures, watched their parents let go enough so their 5 year olds could enter the bigger world.

Before long, they'd be used to seeing Barney, to watching Moskowitz throw treats out the door for neighborhood dogs, to singing



Marsha Moskowitz, a school bus driver, lives near the Lanza home in Newtown.

Will Waldron/Hearst Newspapers

daughter in Florida realized that raising a puppy wasn't easy. She sent Oscar, a brown dachshund, up to Newtown.

It'd be nice to introduce that first-grade girl to Oscar, Moskowitz thought.

**** On Saturday, it was cool and sunny. The dogs were jumping everywhere, barking at and chasing cars.

They'd run in circles, twisting their leashes around Moskowitz, who altered her route to avoid the dozens of TV vans and reporters from all over the world. Last night, she was interviewed on national television.

A car pulled up, a mother lowered the window. There were two girls were inside. The mother asked if Moskowitz was OK.

"Hug the kids for me," Moskowitz said.

The car rolled off and Moskowitz walked up the road, thinking of the girl who'd never meet Oscar and her 19 classmates.

"These kids will never ride the bus again," she said.

and clapping to the Q-98 radio station that played.

By winter, they'd hop on their bus without hesitation. They'd ride to and from the school that had become theirs.

On the last day of school, when Moskowitz brought pig ears for the neighborhood dogs, they'd climb off the bus, matured.

They were ready for first grade.

**** On October 13, 2011, Moskowitz' mother died and a kindergartner visited with her mother to pay the respects of the Jewish Shiva. Moskowitz' daughter, who lives in Florida, watched the girl play with Barney. Thirteen months later, that

Profile of shooter Adam Lanza beginning to emerge

Continued from A1

years — may have come back to haunt this upscale community of 27,000.

Marsha Moskowitz, a former school bus driver, said Saturday that Adam was very shy, reserved and memorable for being a loner in the hustle and bustle of the daily rides to and from school.

"Not every student sticks out," said Moskowitz, 56. "You know how certain kids stick out? He stuck out because he never really talked."

Unlike his older brother Ryan, 24, who graduated from Quinnipiac University and moved to the New York City area for a job with a major accounting firm, Adam stayed in the family home on Yogananda Street, apparently aimless.

John Bergquist, 37, a Newtown native who was friends with Nancy Lanza, said he would see her about once a week at My Place Pizza and Restaurant in a shopping plaza off Church Hill Road, up the hill from Sandy Hook.

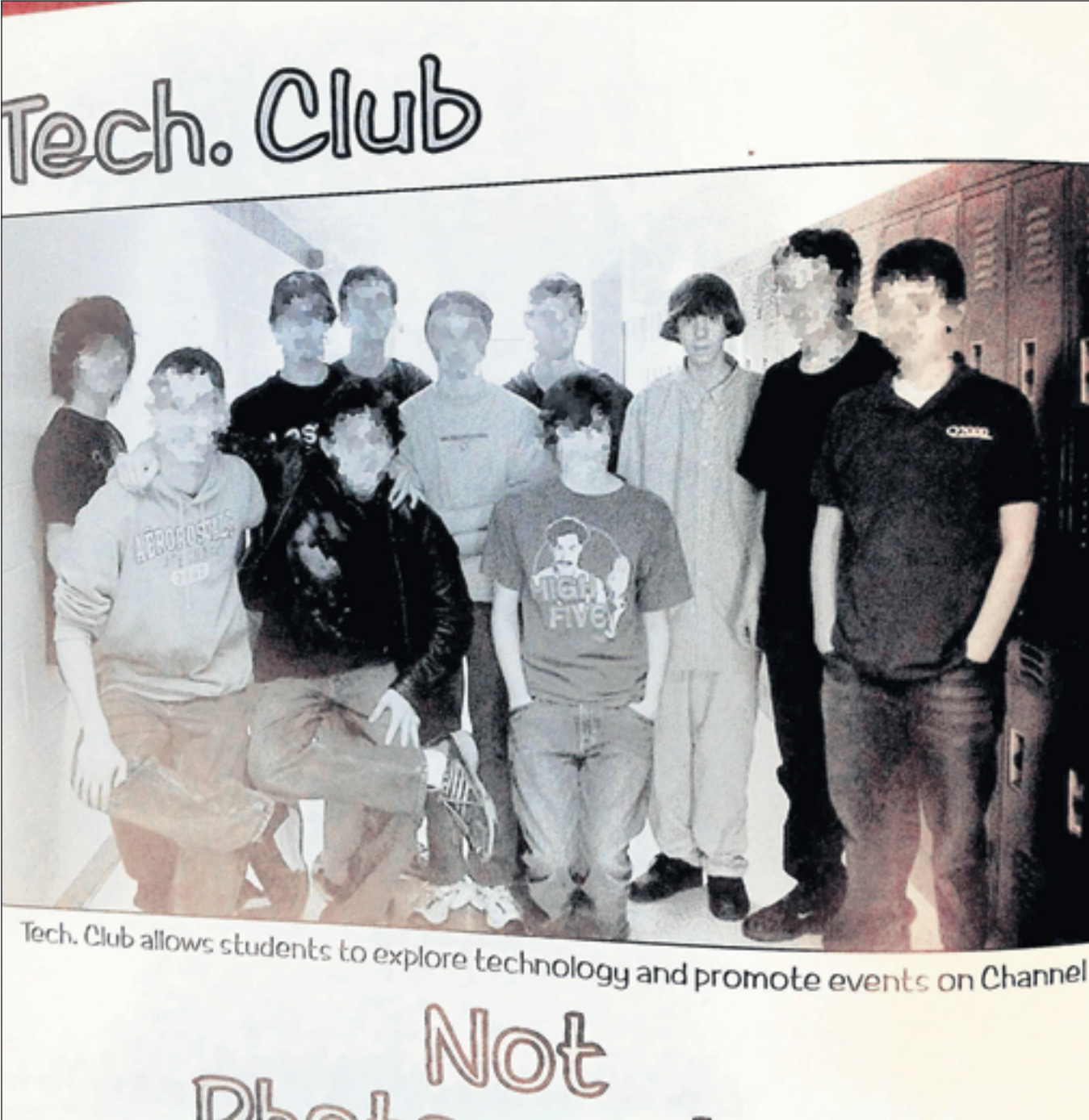
"She was very beautiful, with a great sense of style," said Bergquist, who works at the nearby Dodgington Market and Deli, where he last saw her, while selling her a couple of Powerball tickets for the big drawing in late November.

"She had season's tickets to the Red Sox, being from New Hampshire," said Bergquist. "She'd speak lovingly of both Adam and Ryan; but Adam, he was her life. Every time she would speak of Adam, she said he had his "medical" issues, but she would always lend itself in the positive, about how he was making progress, making friends. She would move with him wherever he went to go to college. I thought he was good to go."

Bergquist said that the last time they spoke, he and Nancy joked about giving him a percentage of a winning Powerball ticket. "She was all into investing and we negotiated beforehand what my cut would have been: \$5 million," he recalled.

Following their 2009 divorce, Nancy Lanza may have volunteered at Sandy Hook Elementary School, although her role was not clear Saturday as investigators continued to sift through evidence in the school and her Yogananda Street home, about 4.7 miles away.

Moskowitz said she thought Nancy Lanza was a substitute teacher at the school, but there are no such records of her in that job. State Police Lt. Paul Vance told reporters Saturday that there was no connection between Nancy Lanza and the school system.



Maggie Gordon/Staff photo

Adam Lanza is seen as a sophomore as a member of the tech club in the 2008 Newtown High School yearbook.

Vance was cryptic, but said there was enough material being gathered at the school and the home to eventually announce a motive.

Lanza apparently shot and killed his mother, then drove her car to the school that he attended as a youngster. He forced his way in, carrying two handguns and an assault-style rifle, which he used for many of the murders, said Dr. H. Wayne Carver II, the state's chief medical examiner.

In an interview Saturday afternoon, Vance said that Lanza had more weaponry than the three guns, but declined to provide details.

The 2009 divorce decree between Nancy Lanza and her ex-husband Peter Lanza, a General Electric executive who remarried and lives in Stamford, included provisions for alimony. So Nancy Lanza was able to purchase the 3,100-square-foot home in February of 2011, with the appraised value of \$707,000, according to the town tax assessor. She was a gun enthusiast who was known to take her sons target shooting.

Moskowitz remembered both Peter and Nancy Lanza, but was more friendly with Nancy, whom she recently encountered at the Big Y Supermarket.

"The mother was quiet, too, and didn't talk much," said Rhonda Cullens, a neighbor of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter's dead mother, Nancy Lanza. "Right now, it's just shock and disbelief. We're totally devastated. It's affecting all of us."

Yogananda Street remained sealed off as a crime scene by yellow police tape and was surrounded by scores of investigator vehicles Saturday morning.

"This is a very nice, quiet neighborhood and the only crime we have to worry about is kids smashing a mailbox," said Cullens, who lived a block away and was a casual acquaintance of Nancy Lanza. "We're a very close-knit, welcoming and warm neighborhood. A lot of people moved here because the school system is so good. It's shocking that anything like this would happen in our community."

Cullens, a stay-at-home mom of two college-aged

sons, recalled playing the drinking and dice game Bunco with Lanza and other neighborhood women on a monthly ladies' night out several years ago. They were the wives of executives who commuted to white-collar jobs in New York City or suburban corporate parks at GE, IBM and other large corporations.

"She was very nice and friendly," Cullens said of Lanza. "We had some conversations during the Bunco games. She seemed like the rest of us." Cullens never saw the shooter or Lanza's other son, Ryan, who reportedly lives in New Jersey and was interviewed by authorities shortly after the mass killing at the school.

Cullens never met Lanza's former husband and she did not know that the couple had divorced until long after the split in a neighborhood where the 4,000-square foot homes are often set on large, heavily-treed, secluded lots that create a zone of privacy that neighbors are reluctant to cross. Cullens has lived there since 1993 and she said the Lanza home was built around 1998.

Cullens was still shaken by the horrific, frightening scene that unfolded Friday morning in the small, tight-knit community just moments after Adam Lanza's shooting rampage that killed his mother and 20 young students and six adults dead at the elementary school.

Cullens is an amateur photographer who was taking down a photo exhibit of the local photo club Friday morning at the Municipal Center when the scene turned tragic. News began filtering in that there had been a shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Police and troopers began arriving and the building, which houses the Board of Education and Board of First Selectmen, went into lockdown mode. A big-screen TV was tuned to the unfolding tragedy. Some people cried. Others hugged. Everyone searched for answers amid the chaos and a gripping fear that their might be more shooters loose and bent on violence.

"Rhonda, where are your kids?" a friend asked Cullens. She said they had just finished finals week at col-

lege and were at the family home.

"Are you sure?" the friend asked. A bolt of fright shot through Cullens. That's when the Municipal Center was locked down, police secured the Board of Education offices and the situation grew even more tense.

Cullens tried to remain calm and she told others around her: "Start praying. There's been a shooting at Sandy Hook."

She described a scene of panic and devastation.

"You could see the shock on everyone's face," she said. "A lot of people were crying."

Cullens' two sons had attended Sandy Hook Elementary School, she was a volunteer there and knows most of the teachers and staff. When she saw her sons' beloved kindergarten teacher on TV, safe and uninjured, she wept tears of joy.

"It was a sense of overwhelming relief," Cullens said. "And then I just kept watching for other people I knew from the school, to see if they were OK."

The Municipal Center was whippedawed by emotions of dread and fear Friday morning.

"All sorts of rumors about maybe another shooter on the loose were floating around," she said. "When we heard police were searching our neighborhood, I heard a guy call his wife and say, 'Lock the doors.'"

That's when Cullen called her house and told her two college-aged sons to lock their doors and be alert for any sign of an intruder.

"It was scary, very scary," Cullens said. "We didn't know what was going on. We were terrified there could be more shootings." Cullens said the people at the Municipal Center all had direct connections to teachers, staff, parents and students at the school and they waited grimly to get word if they were alive.

"When I saw a picture of one of the secretaries I dearly loved, I just broke down and hugged other people there," Cullens said. She learned that the secretary, whose name she did not want to disclose, was sick and had not reported to work at the school Friday.

"Otherwise, she probably would have been sitting in the office and might not have ..." she said, as her voice trailed off.

Cullens continued to say silent prayers and was relieved each time she saw a TV image of someone she knew at the school who had survived.

"Thank God they're OK," she repeated to herself. "The whole thing was just heart-wrenching."

TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN

TAKE ON LIFE

A father, and a town, move on with life

Robbie Parker bravely stood in front of a bank of microphones and a wall of TV cameras Saturday night.

In a suit and tie, he was perfectly dressed in the terribly imperfect world that has descended on Newtown.

Parker and his wife lost their sweet 6-year-old daughter, Emilie, in Friday's massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Emilie was one of 20 children who were shot and killed by Adam Lanza, the 20-year-old gunman from Newtown. Lanza also shot seven women, including his mother, Sandy, and my friend, Lauren Rousseau, before turning the gun on himself at the school like a coward.

And yet, Parker stood before the world, strengthened by his little girl, the one with the blonde hair and blue eyes.

"The love and strength (Emilie) shows us is remarkable. She is an incredible person and I am so blessed to be her dad," Parker said, slipping into the present tense, which only made his grief harder to hear.

Despite the evil of this shooting, Parker said the massacre "should not define us but should inspire us to be



BRIAN KOONZ
Take on Life

more compassionate and more gentle people."

Earlier Saturday, folks who never met Emilie Parker, or her classmates, or her teachers at Sandy Hook School, mourned them deeply just the same.

Pete Samoskevich sat behind the counter at NJK Automotive on South Main Street and chewed on a nightmare in between bites of his sausage, egg and cheese sandwich.

"The guy shot and killed his mother, for Christ's sake. Isn't that terrible enough? Why did he have to go to that school and kill all those kids? How do you go forward after something like this?" Samoskevich shrugged. "But I guess you have to. You have to do it."

This has become the mantra for Newtown. The

people here have to do it.

And they will.

Samoskevich's boss, Nick Kopcik, stopped working on the transmission of his flat-bed tow truck for a moment.

"We're the second-largest town (by area) in the state and the smallest town in the world," Kopcik said. "There won't be anyone in Newtown who doesn't know someone touched by this."

This is when six degrees of separation magnify the madness of a tragedy that didn't have to be. But with this kind of exponential grief comes exponential solidarity.

Tonight, President Barack Obama will speak at a memorial service for the families of Sandy Hook Elementary and the town that has wrapped them in its collective embrace.

For parents lucky enough to be reunited with their children Friday morning, there is an indelible image of kids wearing coats down to their ankles — and parents wearing short sleeves — as they walked up Riverside Road.

"If you really look at this in the most honest way, we can't change what happened, but we can help these families through the



Brian Koonz/Staff photo

Nick Kopcik, owner of NJK Automotive in Newtown, said while Newtown is the state's second-biggest town in terms of area, right now, it's the smallest town in the world.

most difficult time of their lives," said P.J. Hickey, 17, a Newtown High senior who works part-time at NJK Automotive.

"I can't imagine these families feel anything but grief, anger and confusion. I mean, my God, he targeted kids in an elementary

school. It breaks my heart."

The broken hearts are everywhere you look in Newtown. Two days after the worst school shooting in U.S. history, the catharsis is still too far away to pull into focus.

The gunman didn't just steal 20 children and six

women from their families, you see.

He also stole their good-byes — one more chance to kiss a forehead, one more chance to squeeze an angel in their arms.

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School bloodbath renews call for gun control

By Bill Cummings

The horrific massacre in Newtown on Friday is reopening national debate over gun control and that has some pro-gun advocates already preparing for a fight.

Scott Wilson, president of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, which lobbies against gun control, said he expects anti-gun legislation to be introduced next year on the federal level and in Connecticut.

"We are getting indications that, because of some of the higher profile massacres, we will see some legislation," Wilson said. "Connecticut will try to do something. I understand the sentiments and feelings. But I think violent criminals will go to whatever means to achieve their ends."

U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, D-4, said he supports reasonable gun control, such as limiting high-load magazines and renewing a long-expired federal ban on assault weapons.

"It needs to spark a debate on gun control," Himes said of the Newtown shootings. "We are trying to prevent a lot of Americans from getting killed. But it's also about enforcement and national standards. People die in New York all the time from guns smuggled from Virginia."

President Obama on Friday, while wiping away tears over the deaths of 20 young children at six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School, called for "meaningful action" to prevent similar tragedies in the future. He stopped short of proposing specific legislation.

Himes said he hopes Obama, who no longer faces re-election, will use his second term to fight for gun control. "I hope he will push for it," Himes said.

New York Democratic Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, whose husband Dennis was among six Long Island Rail Road commuters killed by a gunman in 1993, said tragedies like what happened in Newtown are becoming all too common.

McCarthy said she hoped Obama's promise to "take meaningful action" will "stay true as we continue down this road again." Himes has co-sponsored bills introduced by McCarthy to renew the federal assault weapon ban and cap the number of bullets that



Luke Sharrett/New York Times

A bicycle at a protest in favor of gun control, held in reaction to a school shooting in Newtown, on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House in Washington on Friday.

can be put in magazines.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn, said he believes the Newtown tragedy, when viewed in the context of other recent shootings, could lead to a real discussion of violence.

"I think inevitably this horrific tragedy will change the nature and transform the tenor of national violence prevention. I'm hearing from colleagues and law enforcement people that something has to be done and this incident may be a call to action," Blumenthal said.

Blumenthal said he plans to address the issue on floor of the Senate in the coming days.

"No single law can solve the problem of gun violence but there have been so many tragedies. There may be a serious effort to address gun violence," he said.

Republicans, many of whom rely on backing from the National Rifle Association, are so far staying away from talking about firearms regulation in the wake of



Charles Dharapak/Associated Press

Supporters of gun control gather on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House in Washington on Friday during a vigil for the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School and to call on President Obama to pass strong gun control laws.

the Newtown shootings. The NRA has been mute since the tragedy. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a former Republican and an advocate for gun restrictions, said now is the time to act. "Calling for 'meaningful action' is not enough. We need immediate action. We have heard all the rhetoric

before," Bloomberg said.

"We're a better country than this," said Brian Malte of the Brady Campaign. "We're optimistic that the American people have had enough. We're optimistic the American public wants to have this conversation, that the voices of Americans will be heard throughout

the country after what happened today."

Even Rupert Murdoch, the conservative owner of Fox News, said in a recent tweet that automatic weapons should be banned.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., author of a 1994 assault weapons ban which lapsed in 2004, said she expects an extensive debate over gun control.

"I hope and trust that in the next session of Congress there will be sustained and thoughtful debate about America's gun culture and our responsibility to prevent more loss of life," she said.

The federal assault weapons ban outlawed 19 types of military-style rifles as well as high-capacity ammunition magazines. Feinstein has called for reintroduction of an "updated" assault weapons ban.

The guns allegedly used in the Newtown shootings, two automatic pistols and a semi-automatic rifle, are legal in Connecticut, but the 20-year-old shooter, Adam Lanza, was illegally pos-

sessing them because state residents can't carry a handgun until they are 21 years old and must have a permit. He was also wearing illegal body armor.

Himes said he would not support banning Glock pistols like those used by Lanza, but said he would prohibit 30 round magazines, which turn the weapons into small machine guns.

Larry Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, said the solution to terrible events like the Newtown shootings is to arm teachers.

"This tragedy underscores the urgency of getting rid of gun bans in school zones. The only thing accomplished by gun free zones is to insure that mass murderers can slay more before they are finally confronted by someone with a gun," Pratt said.

Himes said Gun Owners of America is one of several "extremist groups" that "perpetrate a myth that we are safer with guns — I believe most people have more common sense."

TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN

‘OUR TOWN WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN’

Newtown mourns shooting victims

By Amanda Cuda

NEWTOWN — “Our town will never be the same again,” Lorraine Godfrey said Saturday, tears streaming down her face.

Godfrey, a longtime Newtown resident, was one of many in the community heartbroken by the school shooting that left nearly 30 people, including 20 children, dead on Friday.

Makeshift memorials were erected all over town — at churches, the school the children attended, and the corner of Church Hill Road and Washington. The latter is where Godfrey and friend Jayne Turner, also a longtime Newtown resident, were paying their respects late Saturday afternoon.

The memorial consisted of trees surrounded by luminary bags, and devastated residents stopped by throughout the day to tearfully honor lost loved ones and their shattered community.

Though Turner and Godfrey don’t think they knew anyone killed in the attacks, the mere thought that this could happen in their town hurt them deeply. “I never even left the house yesterday,” Turner said.

Townwide, hundreds of people mourned, seeking comfort in each other, faith and counseling services. Grief counseling was offered at Reed Intermediate School throughout the day and, as of early Saturday evening, about 200 people had used the services.

Elaine Zimmerman, executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Children, worked at the school throughout the day, mainly helping to occupy the more than 60 children who accompanied their parents to the school. She said most of the people she encountered were those directly affected by the shooting. “What you see is parents in deep anguish, really struggling to be good parents” despite their suffering, Zimmerman said.

The children are in anguish too, and Zimmerman said many wrote letters to Sandy Hook Elementary principal Dawn Hochsprung, who died in the attacks. “This is a very strong community, very caring and very concerned with doing the appropriate thing,” Zimmerman said.

In addition to counseling, grieving town residents also turned to religious institutions looking for answers and solace. Members of the community filtered in and out of St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church on Saturday afternoon. Many left flowers and



Ned Gerard/Staff photographer

Congregants arrive for a prayer service at Congregation Adath Israel in Newtown on Saturday.



Jaime Reinos, 12, of Monroe, wipes a tear from an eye as he mourns the shooting victims near Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown on Saturday.

Bob Luckey/Staff photographer



Bob Luckey/Staff photographer

From left, brothers Thomas, 13, and Steven Leuci, 9, of Newtown, mourn near the Sandy Hook Elementary School sign on the corner of Riverside Road and Dickinson Drive in Newtown on Saturday.

other tokens at a statue in a courtyard near the Catholic church.

Darlene Donohue, a Newtown resident for the past three years, said she doesn’t know if she has a connection

to any of the victims, but that it’s likely. “I have a feeling that, in this town, there’s only going to be one degree of separation,” Donohue said. “Everyone is going to know someone (affected by this).”

Donohue, who left a handful of roses at the statue, said she has grandchildren the age of those killed in the shooting. “I just can’t fathom” how this could happen, she said.

Others who came to the church included Michael Murphy-Trevail, an administrator who runs Newtown’s before- and after-school programs. He was off on Friday, but would have been leaving Sandy Hook at about the same time the alleged shooter Adam Lanza burst into the school.

“It hasn’t really sunk in yet,” Murphy-Trevail said. He described the principal, Dawn Hochsprung, as outgoing and warm. “She brought coffee in the morning,” he said.

Murphy-Trevail came to Newtown two years ago from Colorado. His fam-

ily lives in the town. Like many other residents, he expressed disbelief over the events of the past day, which has seemingly shattered the vision of a picturesque community made up of good neighbors.

“Newtown is known as a really good town,” he said. “It’s that suburbia where everyone pitches in. There’s no violence. Everyone gets along. We hardly ever get anything like this.”

Saturday morning, more than 100 people attended a service at Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, during which Rabbi Shaul Praver urged families to respond to the shooting not with anger and vengeance, but with peace and love. He lamented how violence-obsessed our culture is, and told worshippers that the only way to change things was to be messengers for peace.

“This is a horrific event that needs to be counted in a positive way,” Praver said.

To help achieve that goal, he said people need to reach out to their neighbors affected by the shootings with food, friendship and any kind of support they can give.

He said the shootings reaffirm the “presence of evil in the world.” He told the congregation to remember that “it’s not God who did these things, but a deranged person.”

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman also attended the service held in the Huntington Road synagogue.

“There’s precious little that can be said in a time



Praver

like this, other than to understand that this is a tremendous loss.”

Malloy added, “There is

such goodness in the world and that makes it difficult to understand when things go bad.”

Many worshippers spoke during the service, some tearfully. But all were clearly looking for answers in the wake of the tragedy. Michael Klein, a 23-year-old who grew up in Newtown and attended Sandy Hook Elementary School, said he’s shocked by what happened in his hometown.

“A lot of my friends say that because this is such a great town it should be famous. Now, it’s famous for the wrong reason.”

Around town, people continued processing their grief. “It’s just unbelievable. ... My neighbor’s granddaughter was shot,” Janet Woycik said before falling into tears.

Woycik, the director of the Cyrenius H. Booth Library on Main Street, said there’s been nothing normal over the past 24 hours as she received visits from family members of victims to an EMT who responded to the incident rushing to return books to avoid late fees.

“People have been coming in tears. Yeah, I mean one of our programming people, who does programming for children here at the library, her son was shot,” Woycik said.

As the community grapples with how to begin to understand and grieve, the library is also trying to become a place where children can find some peace and a chance to be themselves for a bit in an otherwise upside down world. They’re planning on making the children’s library an oasis to insulate them from the harsh realities of the outside world.

“We’re thinking that parents can bring their children here, just as a diversion and to get them out of the house,” Woycik said.

Children’s Librarian Alana Bennison said she didn’t want to publicize the details of what the library will set up for children this week.

“We need a place where children can come, and not be bothered by reporters and people seeking information,” she said. “Just a neutral place they can come where they can feel normal in an abnormal situation,” she said.

Newtown, area schools prepare for the coming week

By Eileen FitzGerald

NEWTOWN — When Sandy Hook Elementary School students return to classes, it will not be in the building where 20 of their classmates and six staffers were killed in a rampage Friday.

Superintendent Janet Robinson said a temporary home for Sandy Hook students will be announced Sunday.

“We will start in a different location,” Robinson said Saturday night. “We will not enter that building right now.”

Sandy Hook students will resume classes Wednesday, while students at the district’s other six buildings will return to school Tuesday.

Counseling will be available Sunday and Monday in two locations for students and adults as they deal with shootings in which a gunman killed 20 students and six staff as well as his mother and himself. Reed Intermediate School is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sun-

day and Monday to provide counseling and the Newtown Youth & Family Services Inc. is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday for emergency counseling at its office at 15 Berkshire Road. At both locations, walk-ins are welcome.

“Schools will not open Monday, because my staff wanted a little more time,” Robinson said. “On Monday, the staff will come in. We have received so much assistance, it’s been wonderful. There will be training for our counselors as well as sessions with our staff about how to help kids get through this awful event.”

Tuesday will be a regular day for staff and students at Hawley, Middle Gate and Head O’Meadow elementary schools as well as Reed Intermediate and Newtown middle and high schools, Robinson said.

Additionally, an Interfaith service in the Newtown High School Auditorium is to be held at 7 p.m. Sunday. School officials in the area have

made plans to try to help students deal with the tragedy. Danbury and Bethel school districts plan to have a police presence at all of their schools Monday.

The aim is to provide a reassurance of safeness for the children who will return after a weekend of being barraged with details of the shooting, Bethel Superintendent Kevin Smith said Saturday.

“Most of our kids were in lockdown Friday and didn’t have the awareness of what happened and they will have had 48 hours of the news,” Smith said.

On Saturday, Smith said staff from each school worked together to create guidelines for teachers about how to talk with students.

“This is not a local issue,” Smith said. The education communities overlap from town to town. “We need to reassure our kids and parents that our kids are safe.”

School officials from Danbury, Bethel, New Fairfield, Brookfield, New Milford and Ridgefield also



Bob Luckey/Staff photographer

A sign placed near the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown says “God Bless Sandy Hook Elementary” Saturday.

posted on their websites or sent home guidelines about how parents could talk to their children about the shootings.

Sandy Hook School Principal Dawn Hochsprung, who was killed in the shootings, served as an assistant principal for six years in Danbury and her husband, George, teaches at Rogers Park

Middle School.

Danbury High School graduate Lauren Rousseau was killed at Sandy Hook, where she was serving this year as a permanent substitute teacher.

“We will also hold a conference call Sunday night with all our principals and police to discuss the week,” Danbury Superintendent of Schools Sal Pascarella said. He said he expects staff will be asked to meet before school Monday to review plans for their schools.

“We will have support teams deployed at all the buildings with an emphasis on Rogers Park Middle School,” Pascarella said.

Pascarella called a special school board meeting Thursday night to discuss school safety in the district with city officials. He said he wants to analyze school safety plans that are in place and determine if they need to be revise.

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TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN



Christian Abraham/Staff photographer



Bob Luckey/Staff photographer



Bob Luckey/Staff photographer

A community in mourning

Clockwise, from top:
► Stratford High School senior Caitlyn Larocque,

front, sheds a tear as she and hundreds of others attend a candlelight vigil in memory of victims from Friday's mass shooting in Newtown. The vigil took place Saturday behind Stratford High School on the Town Hall Green in Stratford.

► At right, Wendy Santos, of Holyoke, Mass., hugs Carlos Reinos, of Monroe, on Saturday near the Sandy Hook Elementary School sign at the corner of Riverside Road and Dickinson Drive in the Sandy Hook section of Newtown. Town resident Adam Lanza, 20, is suspected of killing 27 people at the school Friday morning.

► A Newtown hat rests on

the shrine to the victims of the shootings at the corner of Riverside Road and Dickinson Drive in Newtown.

► Wearing a pair of angel's wings, 5-year Calliope CeBallo, of Shelton, walks with her family Saturday toward Sandy Hook Elementary School. They left the wings on the school's sign, which has become a memorial to those killed at the school on Friday.

► At left, Scott Lindsay, of Newtown, and his son, Christopher, 9, mourn near the Sandy Hook Elementary School sign. Christopher attends school in Newtown but is not a student at Sandy Hook.



Ned Gerard/Staff photographer



Bob Luckey/Staff photographer

TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN

‘DEVASTATING SET OF INJURIES’

ME: Newtown victims died very quickly

By Ken Dixon

NEWTOWN — Death was swift for the 20 first-graders and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the state’s chief medical examiner said Saturday.

All of them died from rifle shots. All were hit by more than one bullet. Very few died at close range. One victim had 11 wounds, in the worst murder scene that

Dr. H. Wayne Carver II has witnessed.

“All the wounds that I know of at this point were caused by the long rifle,” said Carver, of the high-powered Bushmaster .223 assault-style weapon that was suspected to be one of more than three weapons Adam Lanza took into the school after apparently murdering his mother about five miles away.

“This is a very devastating set

of injuries,” Carver said, adding that any who lived after being shot didn’t survive for long.

“I’ve been at this for a third of a century,” Carver said. “This is probably the worst I have seen or the worst that I know of any of my colleagues having seen.”

Carver told reporters that he, four doctors, 10 other staff members and a college intern kept family members away from the bodies of the murdered, instead using

photographs of the victims’ faces for confirmation.

“There is a time and a place for up-close and personal in the grieving process, but to accomplish this, we thought it best to do it this way and you can control the situation, depending on your photographer,” Carver said.

A temporary facility in the parking lot was set up for identification of the victims, who were later transferred to the medical

examiner’s offices in Farmington by 1 a.m. Saturday. Post-mortem examinations of the children were completed by the early afternoon.

Carver said he planned to perform the autopsies on Adam Lanza, the shooter and his mother, Nancy, on Sunday.

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Ned Gerard/Staff photographer

Satellite trucks in Treadwell Park, in Newtown on Saturday. The park has become a small village for press and media that have descended on the town following the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Friday.

Members of the news media descend on Newtown

By Casey Seiler

NEWTOWN — By 3 p.m. Saturday, the media encampment at Treadwell Memorial Park had waited more than four hours for new facts from law enforcement officials on the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As the sun lengthened the shadows of three dozen satellite trucks, they checked phones and laptops, and pulled on hats and gloves against the sudden chill.

In the space of 24 hours, this tiny hamlet had become an international media vortex, a position it’s sure to occupy for the days and weeks to come.

“The Russians are here, the French are here,” said a Japanese

broadcaster who, while acknowledging the irony, asked that his name not be used so as not to break company policy.

The Canadians and Brazilians were there as well, plus a crew from the Republic of Georgia — most of them dispatched from bureaus in Washington, D.C., or New York City.

The packed parking lot included license plates from Maryland, Quebec, Ontario, Maine, and down the eastern seaboard as far as North Carolina.

Asked how he could handle the fog of satellite truck exhaust for hours on end, the Japanese journalist gave a wan smile.

“The scent is actually how big the story is,” he said. “It tells us how

much interest there is, and it’s not a bad interest.”

Kelly McBride, who directs the ethics program for the journalism think-tank the Poynter Institute, said the relationship between the agonized community and the media horde is bound to become more tense.

“When the story is breaking, there’s such a desire and a hunger for new information,” McBride said. “As the story drags on there’s less and less information to provide, and that tends to wear thin.”

McBride said the first wave of coverage was generally professional and respectful, although she noted that many of the interviews with young witnesses displayed reporters’ gen-

eral inability to allow children to tell a story in their own words.

But with hundreds of journalists swarming the town, “you’re going to have a range of behaviors and practices: You’re going to have people who are invasive and people who are respectful,” she said. “But ultimately, all of them will tend to be painted by the actions of the lowest common denominator.”

At 6 p.m., virtually the only people on the sidewalk of Church Hill Road, Sandy Hook’s tiny commercial center, were TV reporters and their camera crews doing live stand-up reports. In front of the Newtown United Methodist Church — where counselors were offering solace behind doors open to residents but

closed to the media — CNN’s Wolf Blitzer and Sanjay Gupta attracted a small crowd of onlookers as they discussed the details just released by the medical examiner.

The main dining room of the Stone River Grille was occupied almost exclusively by journalists taking advantage of the restaurant’s wi-fi. A large party of adults and small children was initially led to a long table before the manager offered them the privacy of an upstairs room.

“Everybody is going to retreat into private space,” McBride said of the town’s stunned residents, “which leaves a city of journalists.”

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‘IT UPSETS ME A LOT’

Gun manufacturer devastated following massacre

By Kristen V. Brown

ILION, N.Y. — The Remington Arms factory is at the center of this small village, straddled midway between Albany and Syracuse in the Mohawk Valley, towering over nearly every corner of the small downtown.

It may also be at the center of Friday’s mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

A Bushmaster .223 semi-automatic rifle was among the three powerful weapons crazed gunman Adam Lanza used in his bloody rampage.

And it was the Bushmaster — a semi-automatic, military-style assault rifle — that Lanza fired to massacre 20 schoolchildren and six adult staffers.

Manufacture of the rifle was moved to Remington’s Ilion factory in March 2011, providing a morbid link between this tight-knit town of just over 8,000 and the post-card-perfect New England community of Newtown.

Machinist Carl Bovay, 46, said if Lanza’s weapon was

manufactured after production moved to Ilion, there is roughly a one-in-three chance that he worked on the gun. The thought, he said, has weighed heavily on him and a handful of colleagues.

“I keep telling myself that I did not make that barrel,” said Bovay, who made a point to mention that he does not personally own any firearms.

“It upsets me a lot,” he said. “At the same time, we’re making a living off this.”

Elsewhere in Ilion, as a reinvigorated gun-control debate begins to sweep the nation, residents were on the defensive.

The village has sprung up around the factory, founded nearly 200 years ago, their two histories permanently linked. It was in 1816 that a young Eliphalet Remington II, as legend has it, forged his first firearm at Ilion Gulch. Ever since, the welfare of the town has relied heavily on that of the factory.

“I have sadness, but to make a connection to us, the village of Ilion, and what

happened Friday & I’m not sure it’s there,” said Mayor John Stephens.

In the past, Remington has stated that tighter gun controls, such as microstamping, might force the North Carolina-based company to relocate its plant to another state. Stephens has long since been an outspoken critic of microstamping and other forms of stricter gun-control.

“People that are going to use this as a platform for gun control are just wrong,” he said, adding, “Remington belongs here. We’ll do whatever we need to do to keep them here.”

Remington employs more than 1,000 people at its Ilion factory, a complex of brick buildings connected by sky bridges. Faded and nearly a century old, it resembles a high-security prison, cordoned-off from downtown by yards of wire fencing and multitudes of signs warning passersby to keep out or else. In its shadow sits a smattering of mid-century homes, a bowling alley, McDonalds and a handful of other chain stores and gas stations.



Kristen V. Brown/Hearst Newspapers

A view of the Remington Arms factory in Ilion, N.Y.

At a Stewarts convenience store, a handful of Ilion residents commiserated after filling up on gas or picking up milk. Just across the street, traffic streamed in and out of the factory, in spite of the weekend.

“The guns that they make over there have also saved a lot of lives,” said Irving Truax, Jr., a former Remington tool maker who retired in 1998. A friend in a World War II veteran cap nodded vigorously in agreement.

About the Bushmaster weapon used in Friday’s mass shooting, Truax said: “Where that gun was manufactured, it has no bearing.”

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